

Sheldon Dam and Sheldon Reservoir

OWNER

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. (Originally city of Houston).

ENGINEER (Design)

Original: U.S. Government Federal Works Agency.  
Rebuilding: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and city of Houston.

LOCATION

On Carpenters Bayou in Harris County, 2 miles southwest of Sheldon.

DRAINAGE AREA

12,000 acres.

DAM

Type	Earth embankment and levees
Length	6.1 miles
Maximum height	10 ft
Top width	10 to 12 ft
Top elevation	54.5 ft above msl

SPILLWAY

Type	Concrete section
Crest length	120 ft
Crest elevation	50.5 ft above msl

LOW FLOW OUTLETS

Type	3 pipes, each 36-inch diameter
Control	Sluice valves

STATE AUTHORIZATION

Permit No. 1413 (Application No. 1512) July 19, 1947, to the city of Houston authorized storage of 6,950 acre-feet of water and annual diversion of 10,500 acre-feet for municipal, domestic, industrial, and irrigation purposes. The project was sold to the State in 1954, and water is still being used for irrigation.

RESERVOIR DATA (Based on 1971 data from Parks and Wildlife Department)

Capacity	5,420 acre-feet at elevation 50.5 feet above msl.
Area	1,700 acres at elevation 50.5 feet above msl.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

Twenty-nine barrier islands, each 400 feet long with 15 feet crown width and top elevation of 52.5, were constructed parallel to the south and west levees. These islands are in two alignments 600 and 800 feet from the main levee and are spaced on 700 foot centers. The purpose of the islands is to afford wave protection to the main levee and resting areas for waterfowl. The east levee of this impoundment was constructed by the city of Houston as a part of the water canal project from Lake Houston to the city of Houston.

GENERAL

ORIGINAL

REBUILDING

Construction started	1942	1955
Work completed	December 1943	1956
Impoundment began	December 1943	1956
Built by	U.S. Government	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Contractor		Boyd Callan, Waco, Texas
Estimated cost of the improvements		\$250,000

